

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01522 211613Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SY-05 PER-01 SS-15 /032 W
-----072505 211618Z /53

P 211454Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7193

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FOR: M - MR. THOMAS; NEA/ARN - POPE/DRAPER; NEA/EX - CONNOLLY/
WORTEZ/SHEPARD; A/SY - DIKEOS; PER/ES/LP - WEINSTEIN

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: ASEC, AFSP, APER
SUBJ: CONVERSION OF SY/FSL/CONTRACT EMPLOYEES TO FSLE
(PERMANENT)

REF: A) 77 BEIRUT 6309, B) STATE 4004

1. EMBASSY HAS CAREFULLY RE-EXAMINED ITS NEEDS FOR SIX FSL/SY POSITIONS REQUESTED REF A, IN LIGHT OF DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS REF B. BY REORGANIZING SOME FSL POSITIONS WITHIN THE EMBASSY, WE BELIEVE WE CAN TAKE CARE OF MOST OF OUR BASIC NEEDS BUT WE STILL NEED TWO NEW FSL POSITIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY TO MEET OUR MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR PROTECTION OF THE AMBASSADOR.

2. RSO EXPLORED WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE LEBANESE INTERNAL SECURITY THE SUGGESTION DISCUSSED IN PARA 3 OF REF B AND IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED TO BE UNWORKABLE. DG AL-HAJJ STATED THAT HE SIMPLY COULD NOT ACCEPT ANY KIND OF SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT SUCH AS THAT DESCRIBED REF B FOR THE SECURITY OF THE AMERICANS. ANY SUCH SPECIAL DETAIL WOULD CREATE PROBLEMS INTERNALLY FOR THE POLICE, SUCH AS ASSIGNMENT ROTATION, CHARGES OF FAVORITISM, AND LEGAL QUESTIONS. COLONEL
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HAJJ STATED HE COULD PROVIDE US A NUMBER OF PERSONNEL TO ASSIST OUR STAFF BUT HE STRESSED THAT HE HAS NO TRAINED PROTECTIVE SECURITY PERSONNEL AND THAT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO ROTATE THESE INDIVIDUALS ON A REGULAR BASIS.

3. THIS SITUATION BRINGS US BACK TO OUR ORIGINAL DILEMMA. WE MUST HAVE A SOLID CORE OF PEOPLE DIRECTLY

RESPONSIBLE TO THE RSO TO ENSURE THAT THE COM'S PROTECTION IS THE BEST WE CAN PROVIDE. DUE TO THE ONGOING RECALL OF POLICEMEN TO REGULAR GOL SERVICE, WE HAVE ALREADY LOST TWO VERY GOOD MEN WHO RETURNED TO DUTY ON MARCH 10, AND OTHERS ARE SURE TO FOLLOW. THIS MEANS THAT IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE LEVEL OF PROTECTION REQUIRED THE RSO MUST RECRUIT AND TRAIN REPLACEMENTS. UNLESS WE CAN RETAIN SERVICE OF OUR PERSONNEL, WE CAN EXPECT A REDUCTION IN THE QUALITY OF PROTECTION PROVIDED THE COM. THIS WOULD BE SERIOUS AT ANY TIME IN BEIRUT BUT GIVEN THE CURRENT SITUATION IT IS ABSOLUTELY VITAL THAT THE AMBASSADOR'S PROTECTION BE AT ITS BEST. ONE OF THE BASIC TENETS OF OUR SECURITY PROGRAM HAS BEEN THAT THE MORE MODERATE PALESTINIAN GROUPS IN BEIRUT HAVE EXERCISED A RESTRAINING INFLUENCE ON THE MORE RADICAL ELEMENTS IN REGARD TO POSSIBLE TERRORISM AGAINST OUR PERSONNEL. GIVEN THE EVENTS OF THE PAST FEW DAYS WE CAN NO LONGER COUNT ON THIS IN THE FUTURE. THIS ADDS AN ENTIRE NEW DIMENSION TO THE PORTENTED STREET PICTURE AND MAKES QUALITY PROTECTION FOR THE COM ALL THE MORE VITAL.

4. A MINIMUM OF TWO PERMANENT POSITIONS ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE A STRONG BACKBONE FOR THE REMAINING CONTRACT STAF. TWO CAREFULLY SELECTED INDIVIDUALS CAN ALSO BE THE VITAL LINK BETWEEN THE RSO AND A/R SO AND THE OTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTRACT STAFF, BOTH IN TERMS OF SUPERVISION AND TRAINING. WE FULLY UNDERSTAND THE DEPARTMENT'S PROBLEMS IN PROVIDING THESE POSITIONS, BUT IN LIGHT PRESENT SITUATION HERE OUR NEED IS REAL AND URGENT. WE THEREFORE REQUEST IMMEDIATE POSITIVE RESPONSE. PLEASE ADVISE.

DECON 4/21/78

PARKER

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